

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated March 6, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 14. Claims 19-20 have been withdrawn due to an earlier restriction requirement. Accordingly, claims 14-20 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 6,392,810). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 14 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 14 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a beam homogenizer to transform the excimer laser beam into a laser beam... wherein the first energy density is at least 380 mJ/cm^2 and the second energy density ranges from 310 mJ/cm^2 to 370 mJ/cm^2 ." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 14 and claims 15-18, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the

filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: October 6, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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